

villages, splendidly cultivated fields, etc. We had dinner at a hotel in Cassel, *very good, very expensive*. The city is built on top of a limestone hill, rising out of the plain.

After dinner we took the machine and made an examination of the location of the second line trenches and headquarters of the various battalions, regiments, etc. The trench system is practically in a level plain, slightly rolling. We also followed as closely as possible the front line trench of this system. Went almost to Hazebrouck. This is the closest we got to the front line. If heavy shelling had started we would have been in the danger zone. I saw thirty-eight airplanes in the air at one time. Many of them were very high in the air and it looked as though they were attacking. Streaks of smoke were seen frequently, but it may have been simply signaling. We spent about three hours looking over this trench system. We came back to Cassel via St. Sylvestre. This town has been bombarded very little. The largest church has a hole in one wall near the roof. We were within four miles of the Belgium line. Mount Kemmel is in Belgium. The ride home was very delightful and very much enjoyed. Coming into Watten from the east we came out on a ridge from which we have a splendid view of the town and canals. I am more and more impressed with the completeness of what has been done, houses, streets, canals, roads, fields, farm houses.

At supper tonight, Major, now Lieutenant-Colonel, Taylor, told me the good work of the Third Division, on or near the line in front of Paris. This Division had gone through some maneuvers in liaison very unsatisfactorily, and General Pershing had ordered them to spend the next week working on the problem. The following week they went through the same problem again very creditably. They had hardly finished before the Division was ordered to the front line trenches. A machine gun battalion was assigned a sector which the Major thought was in an out of the way place and that he had been assigned to it simply to get him out of the way. He found his place, arranged to set up his machine guns, and then noticed about 600 yards away a column of troops coming down a hill. He saw that they were Germans and called his captains together and they arranged to fire on them. The column turned towards them and were still coming down the hill, so the major held his fire until the column was within 250 yards of his machine guns,